

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-06

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY OSLO

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AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION OECD PARIS
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 236844

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:ENRG

SUBJECT:IEP-DEMARCHE WITH AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

REF: STATE235249

1. ECG, AT MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 19-20, ASSIGNED TO UK RESPONSIBILITY FOR BRIEFING AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND ON IEP AND SCENARIO FOR OECD COUNCIL DECISION ESTABLISHING NEW INTERNATIONAL ENERGY AGENCY (IEA) WITHIN OECD FRAMEWORK.

2. ALTHOUGH PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY ON THIS MATTER RESTS WITH UK, DEPT HAS THOROUGHLY BRIEFED GOVT OFFICIALS OF AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND ON IEP DURING RECENT VISITS TO WASHINGTON. BOTH GOVTS HAVE SENT FACT-FINDING MISSIONS TO EUROPEAN CAPITALS AND US TO OBTAIN INFORMATION ON IEP FOR USE IN ARRIVING AT FINAL DECISION ON WHETHER TO JOIN. REFTEL REPORTS ON RECENT MEETING WITH AUSTRALIANS. NEW ZEALAND'S SENIOR CIVIL SERVANT RESPONSIBLE FOR ENERGY, RUSSEL HOGG, MET OCTOBER 1 WITH DEPT OFFICIALS. HOGG, LIKE AUSTRALIANS, WAS NON-COMMITTAL, STATING THAT GNZ WAS GIVING SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO JOINING BUT THAT NO DECISION YET TAKEN.

3. IN LIGHT OF OUR BRIEFINGS DEPARTMENT FEELS THAT ADDITIONAL APPROACHES IN CAPITALS WOULD BE USEFUL. ACCORDINGLY EMBASSIES CANBERRA AND WELLINGTON SHOULD MAKE FOLLOWING CONFIDENTIAL

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POINTS WITH APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS:

--IEP IS OUTCOME OF INTENSIVE NEGOTIATIONS BY TWELVE COUNTRIES TO DEVELOP AN ACTION-ORIENTED PROGRAM IN ENERGY FIELD;

-- ITS EMERGENCY SHARING SCHEME CONSTITUTES A DETERRENT AGAINST FUTURE OIL SUPPLY CUTBACKS SUCH AS OCCURRED LAST

WINTER; PROGRAM PROVIDES TANGIBLE EVIDENCE OF POLITICAL COHESION BACKED BY ECONOMIC MEASURES (STOCKPILES AND DEMAND RESTRAINT MEASURES) WHICH WOULD ENABLE US TO WITHSTAND INTERRUPTION IN IMPORTS;

-- IEP'S LONG-TERM COOPERATION PROGRAM WILL REDUCE OUR VULNERABILITY BY DECREASING DEPENDENCY UPON OIL IMPORTS THROUGH JOINT EFFORTS IN ENERGY CONSERVATION, R & D, URANIUM ENRICHMENT, ETC.

-- WE EXPECT THE NEW INTERNATIONAL ENERGY AGENCY TO BECOME THE PRINCIPAL FORUM FOR INTERNATIONAL ENERGY COOPERATION;

-- US WOULD HOPE THAT AUSTRALIA/NEW ZEALAND WILL DECIDE TO JOIN IEP AS CHARTER MEMBERS. IF AFFIRMATIVE DECISION NOT POSSIBLE BY NOV. 6 (DATE BY WHICH CANDIDATE COUNTRIES REQUIRED TO INDICATE INTENTION TO JOIN), HOPE WILL JOIN SOON AFTER PROGRAM ESTABLISHED;

--WILL APPRECIATE THEIR VOTE IN FAVOR OF OECD DECISION ESTABLISHING NEW AGENCY.

4. FOR LONDON: EMBASSY SHOULD INFORM HMG OF OUR APPROACHES, NOTING THAT WE IN NO WAY SEEK TO TAKE ON UK'S PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY IN THIS MATTER, BUT BELIEVE OUR APPROACH MIGHT BE USEFUL.

5. FOR TOKYO: DEPARTMENT FEELS THAT BILATERAL APPROACHES BY JAPANESE, WHO SHARE CERTAIN COMMON INTERESTS WITH AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND IN ASIA, COULD BE HELPFUL. EMBASSY TOKYO IS REQUESTED TO DISCUSS WITH JAPANESE THE ADVISABILITY OF A LOW KEY DEMARCHE ON THEIR PART WITH GOA AND GNZ. INGERSOLL
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